



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture

West Virginia Field Office · 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East · Charleston, WV 25305 · 1(800) 535-7088

www.nass.usda.gov

October 12, 2007

OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA - The forecast for the 2007 **apple** production is 80 million pounds (1.90 million, 42-lb. bushel equivalents), the same as the August 1 forecast, but down 10 million pounds or 11 percent from the 2006 crop.

Other hay production is forecast at 798,000 tons, down 15 percent from the 2006 crop. Other hay harvested acreage is expected to total 570,000 acres in 2007, up 15,000 acres from 2006. Yield is expected to average 1.4 tons per acre, down 0.3 tons from last year's yield. Due to program modifications, October 1 production forecast for alfalfa hay is not being published for West Virginia. The next alfalfa hay estimate will be published in January 2008.

UNITED STATES - The final U.S. **apple** production forecast for the 2007 crop year is 9.25 billion pounds, slightly less than the August forecast and down 7 percent from last year. Production decreases from August were noted in both Michigan and New York while Virginia showed an increase in production. North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Washington, and West Virginia remained unchanged from the August forecast.

Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures production of dry hay is forecast at 72.3 million tons, up 3 percent from the August forecast and up 1 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.37 tons per acre, up 0.11 ton from August and up 0.02 ton from 2006. Harvested area is forecast at 21.5 million acres, unchanged from August but slightly above the previous year's acreage.

Other Hay production is forecast at 75.6 million tons, up slightly from the August forecast and up 8 percent from 2006. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.87 tons, the same as the August forecast but up 0.09 ton from last year. Harvested area, at 40.3 million acres, is unchanged from August but up 2 percent from the previous year.

Corn production is forecast at 13.3 billion bushels, up slightly from last month and 26 percent above 2006. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 154.7 bushels per acre, down 1.1 bushels from September but 5.6 bushels above last year. If realized, this would be the second highest yield on record, behind the 160.4 bushel yield in 2004. Production would be the largest on record as growers expect to harvest the most corn acres for grain since 1933. Forecast yields are higher than last year across the Great Plains, central Corn Belt and Delta where adequate rainfall during much of the season provided favorable growing conditions. Expected yields across the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, Northeast, and mid-Atlantic States are down from last year as drought conditions during much of the growing season reduced soil moisture levels and stressed the crop.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.60 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from the September forecast and down 19 percent from last year's record high. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 41.4 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but down 1.3 bushels from last year. Compared with last month, yields are forecast lower in Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and most of the Atlantic Coast States. Hot, dry conditions continued to cause most of the decline, especially in Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Virginia, and the Carolinas, all down at least 2 bushels from last month. Yields increased from the September 1 forecast in Iowa, Ohio, New York, the Dakotas, and most of the Gulf Coast States.